

# By the Queene.

## A Proclamation concerning the true and lawfull winding of woolles.



Whereas in the Parliament holden in the seven and twentieth yere of the raigne of our most noble Progenitor Edward the third, late king of England, It is enacted and ordeined amongst other things, That all wooll packers, and winders of woolles should bee sworn, and take a corporall oath before the Maier of the Staple for the time being, truly and iustly to wynde, and packe all the woolles within this Realme: By force of which Statute, and by the good ordinances made in the said Staple, the fellowship of woollwinders, other wise called woollmen, are bound truly and truly to wynde, and packe all such woolles, as they meddle with throughout the Realme, and by that trade haue mainteyned themselves, their wiues, children, and families in good and honest sort, and to the publique good, and commoditie of the whole Realme, buttill nowe of late diuerse and many persons (contrary to the same Statute) taking vpon them to be woollwinders in many places of this Realme, neither being sworn, nor expert in winding, and folding of woolles, of which some bee Glovers, Taylors, Weauers, Cordwainors, Barbers, Husbandmen, and other Artificers, haue gone about, and dayly doe goe about throughout this Realme, in many places practising themselves in winding, and folding of the said woolles, by the procurement and meanes of the Owners and Breeders of the said woolles, and doe wind vp, and deceitfully put into the said fleeces of wooll many deceiueable things, not onely to the great slander of this Realme, but also to the slander of the Merchants of the said Staple, and likewise to the great hinderance, and deceite of the said Merchants, as also to the great losse, and prejudice of her Maiesties subjects vsing the seate, or craft of Clothmaking, within this Realme. For reformation, and redresse whereof, the Queenes most excellent Maiestie by the aduice of her priuy Counsell straitly chargeth and commaundeth, that no manner of person, or persons, whatsoever hee or they be, at any time hereafter, goe about, or take vpon him or them to wynde, or folde any manner of woolles, in any Countrey where woolles are accustomed to be wrought, had, or vsed for any Merchant of the Staple, or Clothier, before hee, or they shall be admitted, and allowed by the Maier, and Wardens of the company, and fellowship of the woollmen of the Citie of London, or one of them for the time being, to the intent that he and they shall be expert, and haue knowledge in the said craft or mystery for the true winding, and folding of woolles. And that every person, and persons so allowed, and admitted for an able, and lawfull workman, or workmen in forme aforesaid, shall haue a Testimoniall, or Certificat of his allowance and admittance vnder the Seale of the Maier of the Staple at Westminster for the time being, & that none of the said persons so allowed, and admitted, or that shall be so allowed, and admitted, shall go about, or take vpon him or them, to wynde, or folde any woolles, before he, or they haue taken a corporall oath before the said Maier for the time being, that hee or they shall truly, and iustly without deceit, wynde or folde all and singuler such wooll or woolles as hee or they shall take vpon him or them to wind or folde, and shall not commit, vse, or practise any deceit, or guile therein, vpon paine, that every person, which shall take vpon him to wynde, or folde any manner of woolles being not admitted, and sworn, as is aforesaid, or which shall commit, vse, or practise any deceite, or guile therein, against this our Proclamation, or against the lawes, and Statutes in that behalfe made, and provided, shall suffer imprisonment, and such other punishment, & penalties by fine, or otherwise, as may lawfully be inflicted vpon them for wilfull breach, and contempt of her Maiesties pleasure and commandement, and of her Highnesse authoritie, and prerogative regall. And her Maiestie further straitly chargeth and commaundeth, that no Grower, Breeder, Brogger, or gatherer of any wools in any her Highnesse Counties, where woolles are accustomed to be wrought by sworn men, shall at any time hereafter set on worke any woollfolder, or woollwinder to folde or wind his, or their wooll or woolles, vnlesse the sayde woollfolder, or

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Woolwinder, bring with him or them a Testimoniall, or Certificate, vnder the Seale of the saide Mayor of the Staple at Westminster for the time being, testifying him or them to be sworne, and admitted for an able workman to solde and wind wooll in maner and forme as is aforesaid, vpon the like paine, and punishment, as is aboue expressed. And further, where by an Acte made in the thre and twentieth yere of the raigne of her Maiesties most deare father Henry the eight, yet standing in force, It was enacted, that no manner of person doe winde, or cause to be wound any fleece of wooll not being sufficiently riuered or washed, ne winde or cause to be wounde within any fleece, diuerse deceueable things particularly mentioned in the same Acte, or any other thing, whereby the fleece may bee the more waightie to the deceit, and losse of the Buyer, vpon paine, the seller of any such deceitful wooll to forfeit for every such fleece sixe pence. Her Maiestie hath bene certainly informed, that notwithstanding the sayd good Act, and Statute, much deceit is vsed in washing, winding, folding, and packing of wooll, and that for the most part by vnskilfull persons contrary to the said Act, and Statute: Her Highnesse therefore minding to haue the said clauses of the saide Statute, and all Actes, and Statutes touching, or in any wise concerning the auoyding of the sayd deceits, or made, and provided for the true and lawfull winding, folding, and packing of the sayd wooll by expert and skilfull persons, shal be from hencefoorth duely obserued and put in execution, and the offenders against the same to bee corrected and punished according to the effect, and true meaning thereof, doeth straitly charge, and commaund all and euery her subiects whatsoeuer, to whome it shall or may appertayne, to obserue the true meaning of the sayd Actes, vpon paine of forfeiture of the penalties therein contayned, and as they wil auoyd her Highnesse further displeasure. And further her Maiestie by the aduise aforesayd straitly chargeth and commandeth all & euery Iustices of Peace, Mayors, Sherriffes, Bailiffes, and all other her Highnesse Officers, and Ministers whatsoeuer, to whome it may appertayne, that they and euery of them, as they tender her Maiesties pleasure and commaundement, and will answere to the contrary at their perils, doe within the seuerall limittes and precincts of their iurisdiction, and authoritie, search and enquire for all, and euery such person and persons as shall any way offend against the effect, and true meaning of this her Maiesties Proclamation, and cause euery such person so offending to bee duely and seuerely punished for the same, as by this Proclamation is before declared and appointed for such offence, or offences, according as is before expressed and declared. Given at our Manor of Grenewich the 29. day of May, in the eight and thirtieth yere of her Maiesties raigne.

*God saue the Queene.*

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